

## Appendix C. WI DNR Using Pesticides Safely

### Legal Responsibility

Pesticide labels are legal documents.

If you don't read and follow label directions carefully, you are at fault and liable when problems result.

### Rates and Application

Mix dilutions thoroughly. Choose a calm, cool day to make applications in order to avoid movement (drift) of the material onto nontarget areas. This may prevent damaging a neighbor's property and reduce your potential risk. Follow label rates, and remember: More is not always better.

### Safety Practices

- Follow all label instructions carefully.
- Wash your hands, forearms, and face with soap and water after mixing, loading, applying, or otherwise handling pesticides and fertilizers.
- Measuring cups and spoons used for pesticides and fertilizers should never be reused for other purposes.
- Clothing worn during mixing, loading, and application should be washed separate from the family laundry.
- Posting is required on treated areas, outdoors, until sprays have dried or according to the Pesticide labels Restricted Entry Interval.
- Clean application equipment immediately after use, prior to storage. Sprayers should be rinsed by filling with water, shaking well, and pouring the rinsate onto the actual application site. Repeat at least once, preferably twice.

### Safety Equipment and Clothing

- Read the label before mixing and applying pesticides, wear the personal protective equipment required on the pesticide label. This may include the following:
  - Use chemical-resistant gloves, cotton or leather can absorb chemicals.
  - Wear long pants and sturdy shoes, not sneakers or sandals.
  - Wear a long-sleeved shirt.
  - Wear safety goggles or safety glasses to protect the eyes. Have clean water available in case of an emergency to irrigate eyes.

### Storage, Transport, and Disposal

- Store and transport pesticides according to label directions.
- Keep pesticides in original containers when possible; keep labels intact, legible, and plainly visible.
- Secure pesticides against unauthorized access. Prevent accidental poisonings by securing pesticides under lock. Provide signage to indicate where pesticides are stored.
- Use a pesticide storage area only for pesticides and pesticide equipment; never store pesticides with food, feed, seed, fertilizers, protective clothing, respirators, and other personal protective equipment.

- Keep pesticides separate to prevent cross-contamination. Herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides should be kept on separate shelves or areas.
- Pesticide storage areas should be well maintained, neat, dry, ventilated, with impervious floors and some type of climate control to prevent products from freezing.
- Provide pallets to keep drums or bags off the floor. Shelves for smaller containers should have a lip to keep containers from sliding off and containing spills. Steel shelves are easier to clean than wood if a spill occurs.
- Store pesticides where drainage is not towards water sources.
- Use kitty litter to absorb and remove spills.
- Do not transport pesticides in the passenger space of any vehicle.
- Never pour pesticides down the drain. Use them on labeled sites. Leftover products should be disposed in conjunction with local toxics disposal, or call your solid waste district for advice.
- Deplete pesticide inventories before purchasing new or additional products.

## **Emergency Telephone Numbers**

- Poison Control Center **800-222-1222**
- Emergency Response **911**